In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 20 and 26, and please cancel claims 5 and 13, as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A system for managing information comprising:

a software program stored on a computer-readable medium operable to maintain an identity index, wherein said identity index comprises:

a virtual identity further comprising:

an a plurality of information object identifiers each corresponding to an a respective information object; and

for each information object, a resource name identifying a resource at which said respective information object is located, wherein said resource name is associated with said respective information object identifier; and

a resource definition corresponding to each respective said named resource, wherein the resource definition further comprises a set of connection information.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute from said resource to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein a virtual attribute value for said virtual attribute is stored in RAM.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said set of connection information contains a connection parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a resource username, a resource password or a resource type.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said virtual identity corresponds to a user.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said information object comprises a user account.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said information object identifier comprises an account name.

10. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute from said resource to a virtual attribute defined by said schema map.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein a virtual attribute value for said virtual attribute is maintained in RAM.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said set of connection information contains a connection parameter selected from one of a hostname, a port, a resource username, a resource password or a resource type.

15. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said resource is one of a Unix system, a Windows NT system, a Oracle database system or an email server.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said software program is operable to connect to said resource based on said resource definition.

17. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said resource definition further comprises a schema map; and

wherein, said software program is operable to create a composite view of said virtual identity based on said schema map.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said software program is operable to present a representation of said composite view in a graphical user interface.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said graphical user interface is customizable.

20. (Currently amended) A system for managing information comprising:

a software program stored on a computer-readable medium operable to maintain an identity index, wherein said identity index comprises:

a set plurality of virtual identities, wherein each virtual identity corresponds to a user, and wherein each virtual identity further comprises:

a ~~set~~ <u>plurality</u> of information object identifiers, wherein each information object identifier corresponds to ~~an~~ <u>a respective</u> information object; and

a ~~set~~ <u>plurality</u> of resource names, wherein each resource name is associated with an information object identifier and each resource name corresponds to a resource at which the information object corresponding to the associated information object identifier is located; and

a ~~set~~ <u>plurality</u> of resource definitions comprising a resource definition for each named resource, wherein each resource definition comprises connection information for the corresponding named resource.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein each resource definition further comprises a schema map.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein each information object comprises a user account.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein each information object identifier comprises and account name.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein each resource definition further comprises a schema map.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein each said schema map maps a resource attribute to a virtual attribute.

26. (Currently amended) A method of managing information comprising:

storing ~~an identity index comprising~~ a ~~set~~ <u>plurality</u> of information object identifiers corresponding to a set of information objects that define a user;

associating ~~at least one of~~ a ~~set of~~ resource <u>definition</u> ~~definitions~~ with each information object identifier, wherein each resource definition corresponds to <u>a different</u> ~~at least~~ one of a ~~set~~ <u>plurality</u> of resources at which the information object corresponding to the associated information object identifier is located, and wherein each resource definition contains ~~a set of~~ connection information for the corresponding resource.

27.   (Original)   The method of claim 26, wherein each information object identifier from said set of information object identifiers comprises a native key for the corresponding information object.

28.   (Original)   The method of claim 27, wherein said native key comprises an account name.

29.   (Original)   The method of claim 26, wherein the step of associating at least one of a set of resource definitions with each information object identifier further comprises associating at least one resource name with each information object identifier.

30.   (Original)   The method of claim 26, wherein each information object comprises a user account.

31.   (Original)   The method of claim 26, wherein each resource definition further comprises a schema map.

32.   (Original)   The method of claim 31, wherein said schema map maps a resource attribute to a virtual attribute.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, further comprising creating a composite view of a user based on said schema map from each resource definition.